



Proclamation

Presented to

Hawaii Lions Eye Bank & Makana Foundation Hawaii Lions Foundation Lions of District 50 Hawaii

WHEREAS, Over 48,000 Americans have their sight restored each year as the result of corneal transplants; and that the Hawaii Lions Eye Bank & Makana Foundation (HLEBMF) and its 85 accredited fellow eye banks across the country, provide the tissue that make these life-enhancing procedures possible; and

WHEREAS, the HLEBMF, started by the Lions of Hawaii in 1980, recovers and provides transplantable tissue to the people of Hawaii, and has helped over 5,150 residents regain their sight during the past 35 years; and last year, through the charitable donation of ocular tissue in Hawaii, the HLEBMF was able to provide over 220 corneas to help patients in Hawaii and around the world, regain their sight; and

WHEREAS, the Lions of Hawaii, in coordination with the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA), of which the HLEBMF is a member, promotes March as "National Eye Donor Month"; and as it was first proclaimed by President Ronald Regan in 1982, National Eye Donor Month promotes eye donation, recognizes the generous gift of sight from donors and their families, and celebrates the lives of corneal recipients; and

WHEREAS, the Lions of Hawaii are acutely aware of the profound effects of sight-restoring corneal transplants, which transforms the lives of over 70,000 people around the world; and know that these achievements would not be possible without the selfless gifts of donors and donor families; and that one corneal donation can help up to 8 people regain sight through transplantation and grafts; and

WHEREAS, the people of Hawaii can sign up to be a donor online at www.donatelifehawaii.org; or when obtaining or renewing their driver's license at their Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) offices;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim March, 2016 as

"EYE DONOR MONTH IN HAWAII"

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this first day March 2016.


DAVID Y. IGE

Governor, State of Hawai'i



SHAN S. TSUTSUI

Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i